



For Immediate Release
Department of Regulatory Agencies
Cory Everett-Lozano
DORA Interim Public Information Officer
303.894.2913 w
303-260-8639 c
cory.everett@state.co.us

Inter-Agency Workshop Convenes to Position Colorado as the Most Military Friendly State

DENVER — Tuesday, November 20, 2012 — The first Veteran Licensing, Credentialing and Employment (VLCE) Workshop convened on November 13, 2012, bringing together state and federal officials, state licensing board members, and military personnel to discuss challenges and opportunities to improve veterans' access to services, licenses and credentials with the goal to better assist their transition from military to employment in civilian life.

Gov. John Hickenlooper charged the group with making Colorado the most military friendly state. In his greeting, he framed the challenge stating, "In the service of our country, these men and women have developed skills and experiences that are valuable to civilian employers. The central question is: What needs to be done so they are credited for the education, training and experience gained in the military? How do we ensure that a service member who cared for soldiers in the battlefield is able to apply that toward a nursing license? How do we make sure that a service member who drove a convoy truck can apply that experience toward a commercial driver's license?"

Because many agencies have already adopted measures and resources to aide veterans, an emphasis was placed on aligning those efforts across sectors and industries. By improving networking opportunities for the existing resources and assets in the community through greater communication and coordination, the effectiveness of the existing infrastructure will be maximized while easing navigability.

"As a new generation of veterans returns home, it is imperative our governmental agencies work together and engage industry to streamline their reintegration, alleviating the burden of transition that falls upon our veterans' shoulders," said Ms. Barbara Kelley, Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies. "By building collaborative partnerships, we are working to make the process easier and faster for a returning veteran to pursue a degree, attain a credential, open a business and secure a job."

The goal of the workshop is to bring greater awareness of the barriers facing veterans, develop inter-agency relationships, and provide an opportunity for individual entities to establish measurable tasks that will help identify and reduce barriers for this valued population.

Participating agencies included:

Department of Revenue

Army National Guard

Army Transition Services

Department of Labor & Employment

Department of Transportation

Department of Defense

Department of Military & Veterans' Affairs

Department of Public Health & Environment

Air Force Career Development

Colorado Department of Higher Education

Department of Regulatory Agencies and member of its regulatory boards

###

DORA is dedicated to preserving the integrity of the marketplace and is committed to promoting a fair and competitive business environment in Colorado. Consumer protection is our mission.

Visit askdora.colorado.gov